Local Registrars & Fetal Death Registration

2021 Virtual Regional Conference

Sarah Childress & Somayeh Arabpour

Vital Statistics Section, Field Services Representatives

Agenda

- Statutes
- VS-113 Pink Form vs. Electronic Registration (TxEVER)
- Burial Transit Permits
- Medical & Demographic Amendments
- Local File Numbers
- Issuance
- Delayed Fetal Death Records
- Resources

Fetal Death Statutes

Death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy; the death is indicated by the fact that after such separation, the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles.

TAC 181.1 Definitions (10)

Why is it important to document Fetal Deaths?

A certificate of fetal death shall be filed for any fetus weighing **350** grams or more, or if the weight is unknown, a fetus aged **20 weeks or** more as calculated from the start date of the last normal menstrual period to the date of delivery.

TAC Rule 181.7 (a)

A certificate of fetal death (stillbirth) shall be filed with the local registrar within 5 days after the date of fetal death (stillbirth).

TAC Rule 181.7 (b)(2)

Who is responsible for filing a fetal death certificate?

Who are the parties involved in filing a Fetal Death Certificate?

Generally, the physician who attended the delivery completes the cause of fetal death.

Name the circumstances in which a Medical Examiner or Justice of the Peace would determine the Cause of Death?

Can a Midwife be a certifier for a Fetal Death Certificate?

Can a Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth be requested?

If a fetus is found already deceased, the case must be referred to the ME or JP for investigation in the county where the fetus was found.

Responsible for registering:

• JP/ME

VS-113 Pink Form versus Electronic Registration (TxEVER)

VS-113 Pink Form

1. Medical certifier/funeral home fill out pink form

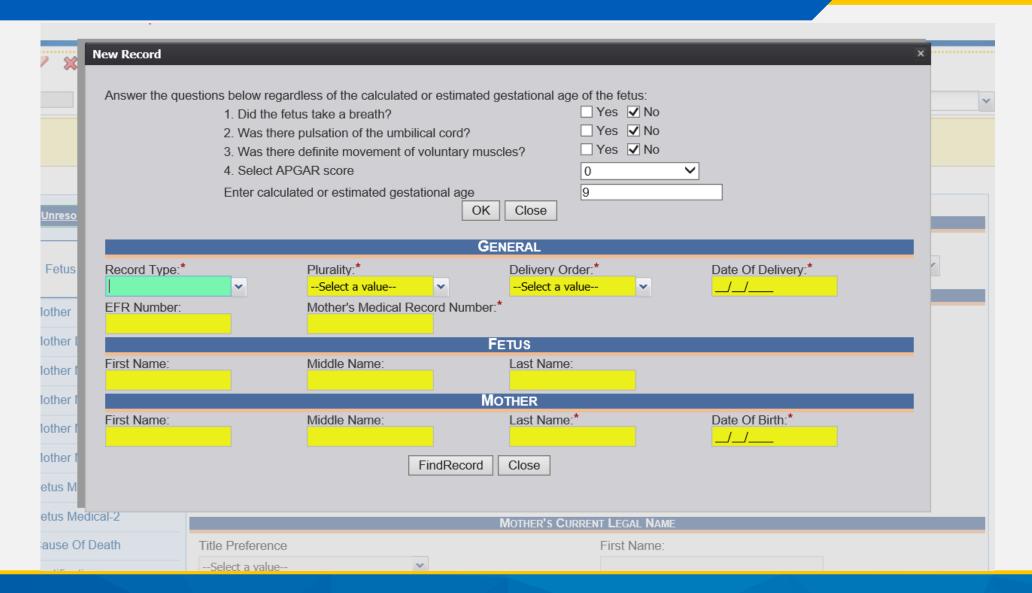
2. Medical certifier/funeral home brings pink form to local registrar in the county where the delivery occurred

VS-113 Pink Form

3. Local registrar reviews for completeness, makes a copy for their records, and mails pink form to the state

 State data enters record -> record goes to state batch print -> record is placed in local acceptance queue of local registrar (working copy only; not for issuance)

Electronic Registration (TxEVER)



Electronic Registration (TxEVER)



Burial Transit Permits

Burial Transit Permits

 If the fetus is going to a crematory = fetal death record with BTP is needed.

If the family is going to bury the fetus in Texas = do not need BTP

 If the family is burying the fetus outside of TX = need BTP + fetal death record

Medical & Demographic Amendments

Medical & Demographic Amendments

- The amendments need to match the way the record is registered.
- If a demographic amendment is needed, then this would be submitted via the paper VS-172.
- If the Pink VS-113 form is used, then the VS-174 Amendment to Medical Certification of certificate of Death
 - Can be obtained only at the local register's office which can be ordered through the VS-100 requisition

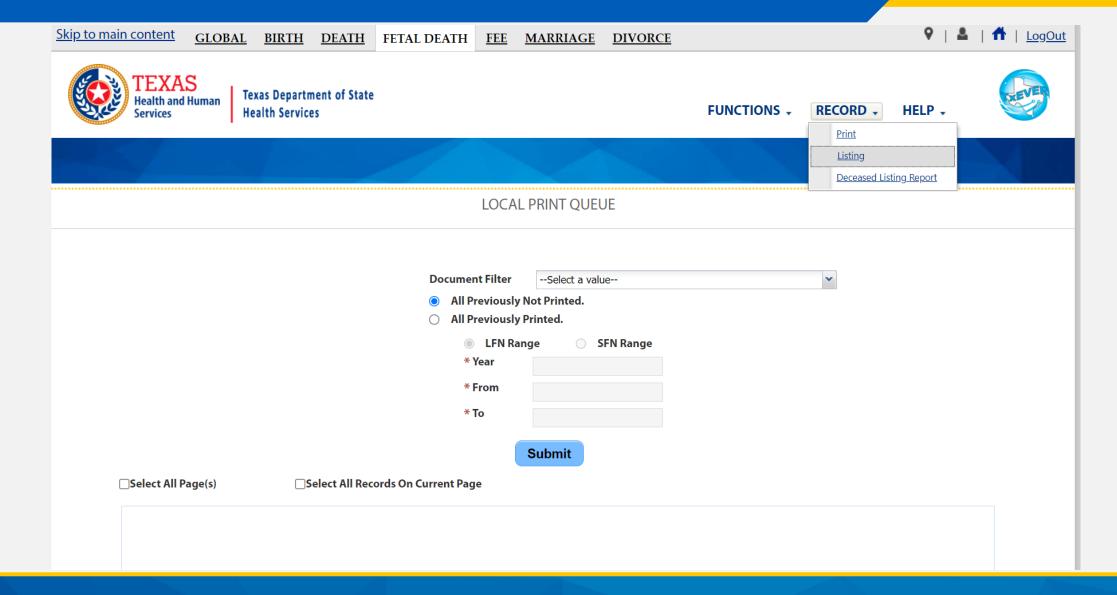
Local File Numbers



Local File Numbers

- VSS advises you not to assign a local file number on paper records unless a copy to needs to be issued prior to TxEVER assigning a local file number.
- At this point, it is recommended to use a temporary local file number know that the TxEVER system will assign a permanent local file number later.
- Once the paper record is processed through TxEVER, a local file number will be assigned.

Local File Numbers



Issuance

Paper or TxEVER?



Issuance

- If the pink form is used, issue off your copy of the original pink form.
- If the record is filed electronically through TxEVER, you will issue the record from your printed copy from TxEVER.

*At the Vital Statistics Section, we issue the same way.

Delayed Fetal Death Certificates

Delayed Fetal Death Records

 Local Registrars should accept all Fetal death certificates regardless of the date of death.

The statute on delayed death does not apply to fetal death.

TxEVER Landing Page:

https://dshs.texas.gov/txever/#fdeath

User Guides:

https://dshs.texas.gov/vs/field/TxEVER/guides.aspx#ugfdeath

Tips & Shortcuts:

https://dshs.texas.gov/vs/field/TxEVER/guides.aspx#scfdeath

Fetal Death Handbook:

https://dshs.texas.gov/vs/field/Handbook-on-Fetal-Death-Registration10--2019.pdf

Statutes:

https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/

Texas Administrative Code:

https://www.sos.state.tx.us/tac/index.shtml

Physicians Quick-sheet:

https://dshs.texas.gov/uploadedFiles/Content/Chief Operating Officer/vs/field/TxEVER/7.31%20Cheat%20Sheet%20Physicians%20Fetal%20Death(1).pdf

FAQs:

https://dshs.texas.gov/vs/field/TxEVER/FAQs.aspx#fdeath

Thank you!

Local Registrars & Fetal Death Registration

Sarah Childress & Somayeh Arabpour; DSHS - Vital Statistics Section, Field Services Representatives sarah.childress@dshs.texas.gov; somayeh.arabpour@dshs.texas.gov